

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the final Office Action mailed October 22, 2007. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application for examination. Claims 19-30 have canceled without disclaimer as having been non-elected. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Ivory

Claims 1 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,836,036 to Ivory ("Ivory").

Applicant respectfully asserts that Ivory fails to teach each and every feature of pending claim 1. In particular, Ivory fails to teach or suggest a plurality of generally thin support members disposed transversely and laterally across the open area of a frame having a plurality of sets of joints, wherein each of the support members has a first end secured to the frame at one of the joints and a second end secured to the frame at one of the joints, as recited in claim 1.

As seen in Fig. 1, each of lateral and transverse elements 16, 16A, 17, 18, 18A, 19, 21, 23 of Ivory are attached to frame 14 at only one end thereof. The opposite end of each of these elements terminates at another lateral or transverse element, not at a joint on frame 14.

In addition, Ivory fails to teach or suggest tooth cleaning elements secured to and extending outwardly from said support members *along the length of* said support members. Rather, Ivory clearly describes a toothbrush having bristles positioned in *spaced groups* which are surrounded by open flow-through areas, as shown in Fig. 1 of Ivory. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is allowable over Ivory.

Claim 12 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons recited above and further in view of the additional novel features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Wall

Claims 1 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,423,531 to Wall ("Wall").

Applicant respectfully asserts that Wall fails to teach each and every feature of pending claim 1. In particular, Wall fails to teach or suggest a plurality of generally thin support members disposed transversely and laterally across the open area of a frame having a plurality of sets of joints, wherein each of the support members has a first end secured to the frame at one of the joints and a second end secured to the frame at one of the joints, as recited in claim 1.

As seen in FIG. 1 of Wall, none of elements 68a, 68b, or 68 c is attached to the frame at either end thereof. Each end of these elements ends at a transverse element; none of them are secured to the frame at a joint of the frame.

Claim 12 is allowable for at least the same reasons as described above and further in view of the additional novel features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Bouchiere

Claims 2 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ivory in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,779,851 to Bouchiere ("Bouchiere").

Claims 2 and 8-11 depend from claim 1. The addition of Bouchiere fails to cure the deficiencies of Ivory with respect to claim 1 discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2 and 8-11, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the applied references.

Weihrauch

Claims 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ivory in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,045,649 to Weihrauch ("Weihrauch").

Weihrauch fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ivory noted above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 3-7, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the combination of Ivory and Weihrauch.

van Gelder

Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ivory in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,874 to van Gelder et al. ("van Gelder").

The addition of van Gelder fails to cure the deficiencies of Ivory with respect to claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 13 and 14, which depend from claim 1, are allowable.

Hohlbein

Claims 15-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ivory in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,870 to Hohlbein ("Hohlbein").

Applicant respectfully submits that Hohlbein fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ivory noted above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 15-18, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited combination of art.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell

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